



## Dreams Take Flight at Aviation Conference

Many Montana aviators and students were honored during the 2008 Montana Aviation Conference.

The Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division presented the Airport of the Year award to Great Falls International Airport and Townsend Airport, both for their major accomplishments throughout the years.

The Great Falls International Airport was also presented with the Big Sky Trust Fund in the amount of \$265,000 presented by Dept. of Commerce Director Tony Priete and Lt. Governor John Bohlinger. In addition, Avmax Montana Inc. was presented with the Workforce Training Grant in the amount of \$179,866.



*Lt. Governor John Bohlinger and MDT Director Jim Lynch congratulated Jase Oriet and Bradley Brenteson who both took time out of their busy schedules to accept their scholarships at the awards luncheon. Picture l-r are Jim Lynch; Jase Oriet; Bradley Brenteson and Lt. Governor Bohlinger. Photo by Randy Haskell, Haskell Studio, Great Falls. More conference photos on pages 4 and 5.*

Steve Jones of the Helena Flight Standards District of the Federal Aviation Administration presented the Gold Certificates of Excellence to Yellowstone Jet Center and Big Sky Airlines; Diamond Certificates of Excellence to Neptune Aviation Service, Merlin Airways and Corporate Air. The Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award went to one of our favorites Mr. Tom Wrobel, Cascade and the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to another favorite Mr. Mike Strand, Kalispell - both well deserved!

The 2008 Scholarship winners were - Morrison Aviation Appreciation Scholarship, Bradley Brenteson, Conrad; Montana Antique Airplane Association Scholarship, Erin Schmidt, Helena; Aviation Organizations of Montana Flight Scholarship, Jase Oriet, Manhattan; Parrott Family Scholarship, Kelli French, Malta; A Love of Aviation Scholarship, Cheri Stahlecker, Hamilton; Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship, Jessica Smith, Billings; Harold Hamm Scholarship, Michael Glunt, Billings; MPA Junior Pilot of the Year, Blake Lerner, Bozeman; and MPA Flight Training Scholarship, Jake Hemphill, Billings.

The Montana Pilots Association presented the Sparkplug Award to Brent and Rosie Vetter of Helena for going way above and beyond the norm in supporting aviation in the Helena community. Hangar of the Year went to the Vigilante Hangar in Helena for its active membership and consistent programs.

Congratulations to all the individuals and companies who were honored. Thank you to the many scholarship donors for their generous support of Montana youth.

And last but not least, a big thank you to our conference sponsors – **Platinum Sponsors:** Allegiant Air; Avmax Montana Inc.; City Service Valcon/Phillips 66 Aviation; Frontier Airlines; Great Falls International Airport; Great Lakes Aviation; Holman Aviation; Horizon Airlines; Kadmas, Lee & Jackson; Morrison Maierle, Inc.; Potomac Aviation Technology Corp.; Western Petroleum/ExxonMobil. **Gold Sponsors:** Edwards Jet Center; Mountain West Bank. **Silver Sponsors:** Aerotronics Inc.; Brackett Aircraft Co., Inc.; CH2M Hill; Exec Air Montana; General Aviation News; Hardrives Construction Inc.; Mead & Hunt; Montana Antique Aircraft Association; National Business Aviation Association; Rapco Inc.; Robert Peccia & Associates; and Stelling Engineers. THANK YOU!!

# Administrator's Column

**Attention Airport Sponsors:** A deadline of June 1, 2008 has been published by FAA in the Federal Register for airport sponsors to notify the FAA of whether it will use its FY2008 entitlement funds. The AIP program is extended for 9-months through June 30, 2008. If a sponsor does not notify the Helena ADO in writing by June 1, 2008 of its intent to use or carryover funds, FAA will be unable to 'protect' carryover funds and these funds will not be carried over to FY-2009. Additionally, the Helena ADO is requesting that all pre-applications, including any proposed entitlement transfer agreements, be submitted no later than May 1, 2008. The Helena ADO also requests that all bids be opened by June 1, 2008 and that applications for Federal Assistance be submitted no later than June 4, 2008. All grant offers made by the Helena ADO must be returned by June 20, 2008. If you have any questions please call the ADO at 449-5271. Dave, John, Gary and Maureen do an outstanding job to accommodate Montana's airports and sponsors. Please make every effort to assist the ADO in this important job understanding the abbreviated timelines they are operating under.

**More good news:** Gallatin Field Airport at Bozeman will receive seasonal weekend nonstop service on United Express from Los Angeles, CA beginning June 7, 2008. Seasonal weekend service to San Francisco has been very popular with customers and its success was instrumental in United's decision to initiate Los Angeles service this summer and next winter. Gallatin Field will become the only airport in Montana with nonstop service to San Francisco and Los Angeles. Flights will be operated by United Express partner SkyWest.

**Seaplane win:** The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) plans to continue seaplane access to more than 400 bodies of water in 17 western states. Thanks to the efforts of national and local pilots groups and state aviation

agencies, the BOR has agreed to reverse a rule change that would prohibit seaplane activity on its lakes. In 2006 the BOR revised a rule requiring seaplanes to document prior use in order to be allowed access or be banned from using the bodies of water for seaplane operations. A revised rule should be issued within the next few months to restore the use of seaplanes on these reservoirs.

## **Graduate research award program:**

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) is offering up to ten awards of \$10,000 each for successful completion of a research paper on public-sector airport-related aviation issues. Paper topics should focus on applied research to help the public sector continue to improve the quality, reliability, safety, and security of the U.S. civil aviation system well into the foreseeable future. Application deadline is June 3, 2008 – for eligibility criteria, more information, and to find out how to apply, please visit: <http://www.trb.org/crp/acrp/awardprogram.asp>

## **Small community air service program solicitation:**

The USDOT has issued its order soliciting community grant proposals for the 2008 Small Community Air Service Development Program (Docket #: DOT-OST-2008-0100). The deadline for submission is June 6, 2008 and there is \$10 million available in grant funds this year. For the complete order and to obtain application information go to: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search by the Docket # or call the Office of Aviation Analysis at (202) 366-2347 or [aloha.ley@dot.gov](mailto:aloha.ley@dot.gov)

**MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696. MDT produces 2,400 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$936. This includes \$565 for postage.**



## *Montana and the Sky*

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Jim Lynch, Director

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Debbie K. Alke, Administrator

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# Calendar

**April 18-20** – Federation of Galaxy Explorers Aerospace Education Workshop for Teachers and Youth Program Leaders in Billings, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Participation will be limited to 20 participants and there is no charge to participate. Contact Steven Heffel at [Montana@foge.org](mailto:Montana@foge.org) or (406) 652-7268 for information.

**May 17-18** – Malmstrom Air Force Base Open House, headlined by the Canadian Forces Snowbird Aerial Demonstration Team and will showcase the A-10 ‘Thunderbolt II’, various helicopters including the UH-1N ‘Huey’ and much more. Stay tuned to newsletter for updates and event schedules or visit [www.malmstrom.af.mil/](http://www.malmstrom.af.mil/).

**May 24-25** – Spotted Bear Work Session. For further information, contact Perry Brown at (406) 892-3996.

**June 13 – 14** – Missouri Breaks Winifred (9S7) Fly In – June 13 - camp and cookout at Cow Creek Airstrip; June 14 - flying the Breaks and returning to Winifred for hamburgers and hangar talk; June 15 – depart for home – fuel available. For more information, phone Ralph Rogers at (406) 462-5487

**June 14** – Lewistown Airport Fly In breakfast, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information, phone Jerry Moline at (406) 350-3264.

**June 14** – Poker Run – Great Falls to Lewistown.

**June 14-15** – Father’s Day Fly In – Twin Bridges (7S1) – potluck pig roast Saturday night – pancake breakfast Sunday morning with pilot games that afternoon. For more information, call Kendra Horn (406) 684-5335 or email [kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com](mailto:kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com).

**June 24 – 27** – Air Race Classic, starts in Bozeman, MT finishes in Mansfield, MA. On **June 21** a barbeque will be held in Bozeman and on **June 22** a banquet, both the barbeque and banquet are open to the public. To make reservations or find out more, contact Linda Marshall at (406) 388-7668 or email [linda99s@msn.com](mailto:linda99s@msn.com). For complete race information, visit [www.airraceclassic.org](http://www.airraceclassic.org).

**June 21** – Plains Airport Fly In breakfast. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information, phone Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605 or email [printery@plainsmt.net](mailto:printery@plainsmt.net).

**June 21** – North Central Hangar Fly In breakfast and Big Boys Toy Show, Big Sandy Airport. Breakfast served from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Flour bombing and spot landing contests. For further information, contact Darren Huestis at [darren.huestis@nuwaveservices.com](mailto:darren.huestis@nuwaveservices.com).

**June 28** – Seeley Lake Flying Club Fly In and BBQ – Seeley Lake Airport (23S) – camping at new pilot camping area.

**June 28** – Hardin Fly In breakfast, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Held in conjunction with Little Big Horn Days ([www.custerslaststand.org](http://www.custerslaststand.org)) a parade will be held at 10:00 a.m. and a host of other activities throughout the day. For those attending the Custer’s Last Stand reenactment, transportation will be provided to the site. Will recognize the best antique/classic, experimental, and contemporary airplane. For further information, phone Bob Crane at (406) 665-1006.

**June 28-29** – Meadow Creek Work Session. For further information, contact Perry Brown (406) 892-3996.

**July 12** – Del Bonita Work Session. For further information, phone Jim Greil at (406) 444-2506 or email [jgreil@mt.gov](mailto:jgreil@mt.gov).

**July 18-20** – Schafer Meadows Work Session. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506.

**August 3** – Lions Club Pancake Breakfast Fly In, Hysham Airport – 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – For further information, phone Bob Miller at (406) 342-5252.

**August 16** – Polson Fly In – Polson (8S1) pancake breakfast, lunch and Soroptomist’s Wine Festival.

**August 15 – 17** – Montana Fun Weekend – Cut Bank (CTB). For further information, go to [www.cutbankairport.org](http://www.cutbankairport.org).

# More Aviation Conference



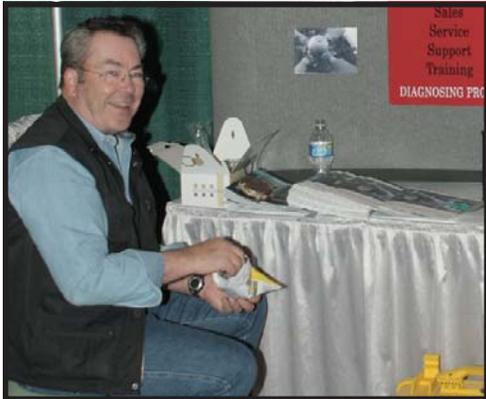
**Aerotronics (pictured is Jon Paul Delucca) – 24 years!**



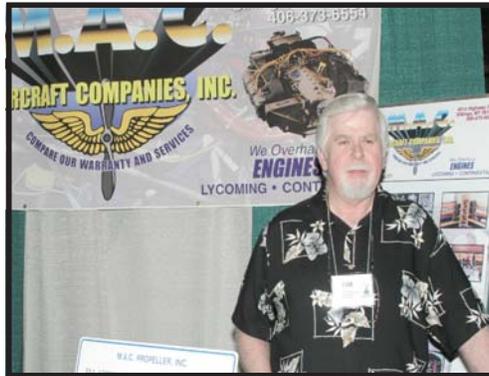
**Montana Antique Aircraft Association (pictured is Cindy Kleimer) – 11 years!**



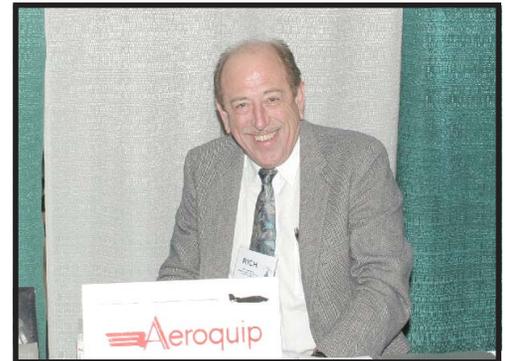
**FAA – Office of Runway Safety (Gene Sager (l) and Bruce Fisher(r) – 10 years!**



**Honeywell Aerospace (pictured is Jim Ramsey) – 13 years!**



**M.A.C. Aircraft Engines & Propellers (pictured is Tim McGinnis) – 22 years!**



**Omaha Airplane Supply (pictured is Rich Broberg) – 24 years!**

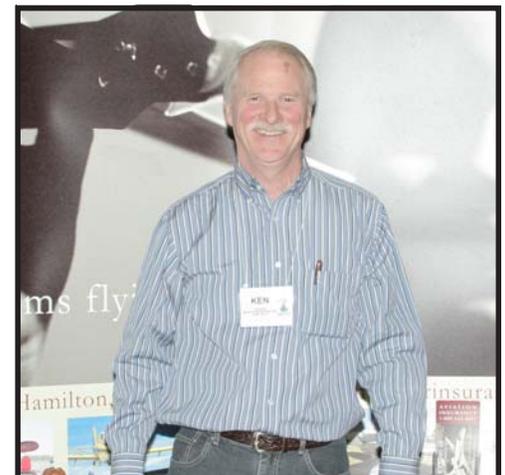
The conference would not be possible without the great support of our exhibitors. Many thanks to you all for helping make our conference such a success.

Two exhibitors, Aerotronics and Omaha Airplane Supply Aerotronics have been with us since the first conference, and we thank them for their 24 years of support. Other exhibitors that have been with us for ten years or more: Northwest Propeller Service; M.A.C. Aircraft Engines & Propellers; Montana Aviation Trades Association; Montana Pilots Association; U of M - Helena College of Technology; Mountain Air Insurance Services Inc.; City Service Valcon/Phillips 66 Aviation; Edmo Distributors; Aircraft Technical Publishers; Honeywell Aerospace; L-3 Avionics Systems; Kadrmas Lee & Jackson Inc.; Montana Antique Aircraft Association; Aviall; and Federal Aviation Administration - Office of Runway Safety.

A big thank you to the rest of our exhibitors. We look forward to welcoming you all for many years to come!! ACES Systems; American Aircraft Trades, LLS; Angel Flight West; AOPA; Aviation Art Forms; Avmax Montana Inc.; Belfort Instrument Company; Civil Air Patrol; Cross Petroleum Service; Custom Aircraft Refinishing, Inc.; Experimental Aircraft Association; Engine Components Inc.; FAA Alaska Flight Services; Floats & Fuel Cells; Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.; Hardrives Construction Inc.; High Tech Filters; Mission Aviation Fellowship; Montana Seaplane Pilots Association; Morrison-Maierle, Inc.; NOAA National Weather Service; Northern Skies Aviation, Inc.; Northern Steel Industries; O'Day Equipment, LLC; Potomac Aviation Technology Corp.; Rapco Inc.; Recreational Aviation Foundation; Red Eagle Aviation; Red River State Bank; Regal Aviation Insurance (ID); Robert Peccia & Associates; Rocky Mountain Emergency Services Training Center; Stelling Engineers, Inc.; Teledyne Continental Motors; Tempest; Western Plains Machinery. **(Photos by Randy Haskell, Haskell Studio, Great Falls.)**



**Regal Aviation Insurance (ID) (pictured l-r are Autumn Wade-Peterson and Melissa Wyble) – 6 years!**



**Mountain Air Insurance Services Inc. (pictured is Ken Brion) – 17 years!**



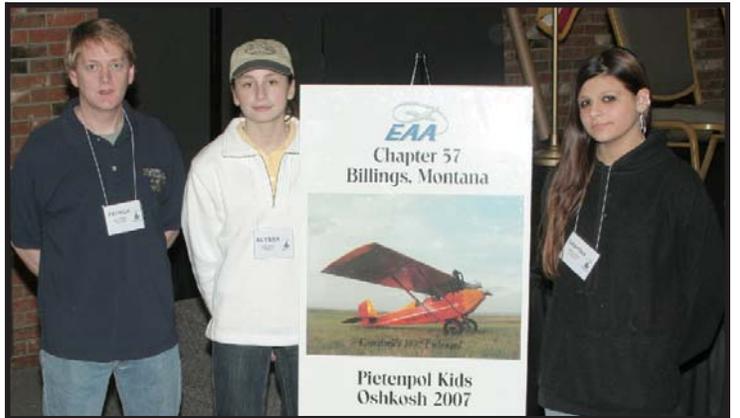
*Col. Michael McDonald Wing Commander of the 900-plus fighter wing in Great Falls spoke on his experiences in the Air Guard at Thursday's kick-off luncheon. Photo by SMSgt Eric Peterson.*



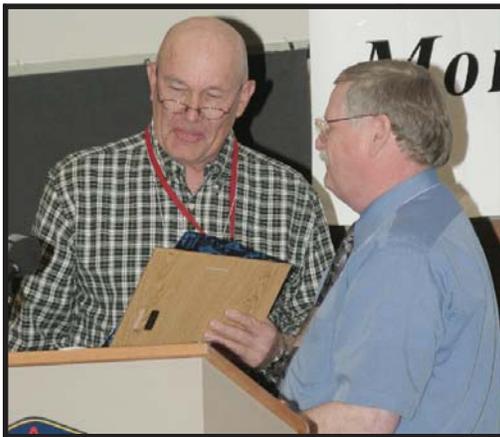
*Townsend Airport was one of the airports honored as "Airport of the Year." Pictured l-r, Debbie Alke, Neil Salmi, Gail Vennes, Ernie Carlson, Jim Lynch and Lt. Governor John Bohlinger. Photo by Randy Haskill.*



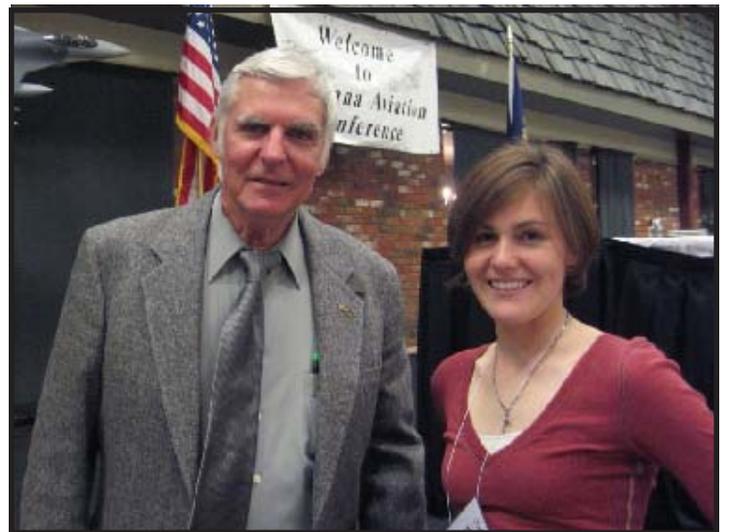
*Great Falls International Airport Director Cynthia Schultz thanked everyone for the "Airport of the Year" honorarium and the "Big Sky Trust Fund" award. Photo by Randy Haskill.*



*Billings teacher and pilot Patrick Kenney gave a concurrent session on "The Rebuilding of the Comstock Peitenpol." The 1932 Pietyenpol Aircamper was restored through the partnership of EAA Chapter 57 and the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum. Pictured l-r is Patrick Kenney with two of his students who helped with the project, Alyssa Espinoza and Sabrina Brawley. Photo by Randy Haskill.*



*Tom Wrobel (l) was honored to be recognized with the "Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award" presented by Steve Jones (r) of the FAA. Photo by Randy Haskill.*



*Dick Rutan was the featured banquet speaker enthralling the audience with his remarkable accomplishments and incredible tales of courage all making him a significant part of aviation history. Pictured is Dick Rutan with pilot Rebecca Smith of Lewistown. Photo by Pete Smith.*



*Mike Strand (l) was presented with the prestigious "Master Pilot Award" by Steve Jones (r) of the FAA. Photo by Randy Haskill.*

# New Faces in Safety & Education Bureau

With retirement and employees moving on to bigger and better things, the Safety & Education Bureau has hired two new employees who are both proving to be a valuable asset to the division.

Amy Kohl has been with MDT Aeronautics Division for one year. Amy began in the administrative assistant position and is now in the accounting technician/aircraft registration position.

Amy was born in Helena and was raised in Oregon, returning back to Helena in 1998. Amy was previously employed with the Rocky Mountain Development Council Weatherization Program.

Amy's family consists of "her sometimes better half" Shaun Moore", two sons, Braden and Rylan, and she is happy to say that they are expecting a little girl in May.

"I've greatly enjoyed this past year in working with all of you in regards to aircraft registration. And, although I will be gone on maternity leave in May, I look forward to returning in August to further assist you."

Amy finds enjoyment in being a mom, camping, fishing, gardening, travel and, of course, her frequent visits to the local coffee shops for her hazelnut lattes!

We also welcome Kelly Dimick who was recently selected as the Division's administrative assistant. Kelly has worked for the State of Montana for a total of nine years.

Kelly began working with the Department of Public Health and Human Services as an information systems technician shortly after graduating high school in 1992. Kelly took time off and attended college in 1999, then moved to Wyoming for four years. Kelly moved back to Montana in 2004 and began working for the Department of Transportation in 2005 as a motor fuel tax technician before transferring to the Aeronautics Division in January.

Kelly's hobbies are bow hunting, camping, driving around in the mountains, and she enjoys oil painting. Kelly's family consists of her husband, Jeff, and her two daughters, Kristina and Kelsie.

Kelly reports that in the few short months at the division, she has been able to meet many people in the aviation industry, while assisting with the Winter Survival Clinic, Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic and the registration desk at the 2008 Montana Aviation Conference in Great Falls. Kelly looks forward to assisting you when you contact the division.



*Amy Kohl (l) and Kelly Dimick*

## VFR Navigation

*By: Max Murphy, Aviation Support Officer*

I am very impressed by our world's continuing advances in technology. Who would have thought that hunters, even in Montana, would be finding their way in the mountains using hand-held global positioning systems? Cell phones have become the new multi-purpose tool. They are so complicated they can do almost everything except brush your teeth for you. And computers are now so small they can fit in the palm of your hand!

In today's aviation world NDBs and VORs have given way to GPSs as a primary navigation tool. Global positioning systems are great, however, as pilots we shouldn't totally rely on this technology to help us reach our destinations safely. Additionally, we shouldn't totally rely on our instruments either.

For example, what would you do if your vacuum pump failed while you were flying in a single engine plane? Or, how would you continue on to your destination if you needed to shut down your instruments to save battery power because your alternator failed mid-flight? All without any handhelds.

These are things that have actually happened to me and are a few of the reasons why I try to stay proficient in VFR navigation. I owe a great deal to some wonderful college flight team coaches who were passionate about teaching VFR navigation. Here's a summary of the lessons they taught me:

Prior to actually departing some ground work is needed. First, you need a current sectional chart. This is especially important if preparing to fly over unfamiliar terrain, or in areas that are developing rapidly. WAC charts, though helpful, do not give the level of detail needed in VFR navigation.

Next you'll need a plotter, flight computer, stop watch and mark out your projected path on the sectional chart. Some pilots use highlighters or markers, however I prefer a different method. Prior to plotting out my flight, I adhere transparent paper to the sectional chart. I also purchase several colors of wet-erase markers, the kind used on the old overhead projectors. By using these simple little tricks, the sectional chart can be used and reused many times.

*continued page 7*

# Teachers Takeoff with Aviation



*Richard Klein lead instructor for "Take off with Aviation Education" leads the teachers in airplane yoga, "bank left!"*



*Ted Polette, eighth grade teacher in Clancy and pilot Bruce Larson from Billings work out the math computations for their thrust unit a part of "Take off with Aviation Education."*



*Major Rick Anderson of the Montana Air National Guard invited teachers, Ted Polette, Emmylou Fleming, Jill Lowell and Christina Green to get a close up of the F16.*

"Takeoff with Aviation Education" was presented by MDT Aeronautics Division as part of this year's Montana Aviation Conference. The workshop helps teachers spark an interest among the next generation of young men and women by providing hands-on aviation activities for students. The University of Montana and the Office of Public Instruction are supporters of the teacher workshop.

Richard Klein of Aviation Education Alliance from Buffalo Grove, Ill. captivated the teachers by using applications of aviation to teach the core subjects. Ready to use, standards-based lessons were explored and a notebook of lesson plans for immediate classroom use was provided.

The teachers then practiced their newly learned aviation concepts by presenting to fifth and sixth grade students of Cascade and Conrad schools

"Takeoff with Aviation Education" concluded with a field trip of the Great Falls International Airport. The teachers toured the Montana Air National Guard and fire station, the air traffic control tower, Holman Aviation and the Great Falls area via general aviation aircraft piloted by Jeanne MacPherson of MDT and Mike Campbell of Campbell Aviation out of Dutton.

## VFR Navigation, continued

After I have my sectional chart prepared, I get the most current weather information available and weather projections, paying particular attention to expected winds. At this point, using my flight computer, I figure out the ground speed for all courses of the flight. Then I divide the ground speed by the distance of my course at three to five mile intervals.

Now I'm ready to begin plotting out the course of the flight. Primarily, I use three colors of markers. With one color I will plot the route. I'll use a second color to record my calculated time intervals. This is to assure I am maintaining my course and proper power settings when compared to what is shown on the sectional chart and what I see out the window. The third color is used to identify the magnetic headings of the course that I have calculated including magnetic variation.

Finally, with my plotted sectional chart, stop watch in hand, knowledge of the cruising ground speed of my aircraft, and an understanding of magnetic compass deviation guidelines such as ANDS (accelerate north, decelerate south) I am ready to embark on my VFR flight.

Once I'm cleared and am beginning my roll on take-off, I start the stopwatch. (Remember to add into your calculations the time required to take off and climb to cruising altitude.) I'll use the stopwatch throughout the flight as I'm comparing my plotted time intervals and checkpoints on the sectional chart to what I see out my window. If all goes as planned, I will safely arrive at my destination even if there is a malfunction of navigational instruments.

I would encourage every pilot to practice and become proficient at VFR navigation because a good pilot is always a learning pilot.

# New Landing strip in L&C National Forest



Four years spent cooperating with the US Forest Service, planning, building trust and credibility has resulted in a new site for a recreational airstrip in the beautiful Russian Flat of central Montana, a short walk from the south fork of the Judith River where anglers enjoy catch-and-release fishing.

Dan Prill of Sand Coulee, Mont., took the lead for the nonprofit Recreational Aviation Foundation throughout the comprehensive planning process, which included the requisite public input, an Environmental Impact Statement, and public appeals period. The US Forest Service, responding to the wide-ranging concerns of the public, has authorized the establishment of the airstrip at Russian Flat in their Record of Decision.

The site, located about 40 sm southwest of Lewistown, Mont., was selected by the Forest Service because it met environmental, wildlife and aesthetic criteria with minimum disturbance to the landscape. It is ideal for recreational purposes because it is adjacent to an established campground with picnic tables, a vault toilet and an existing unpaved road. The concept is to prepare a 4,000-foot long grass strip in the 6,300-foot elevation meadow: Lat N46 deg 43' 18"; Lon W110 deg. 24' 26".

Prill commented, "This decision is significant because until this location was selected at Russian Flat, there were no public airstrips on Forest Service lands east of the Rocky Mountain Front."

The RAF has approved an \$8,000 grant to be awarded to the Montana Pilots Association's Recreational Airstrip Committee for grounds preparation and rolling of the landing surface. To allow for adequate revegetation, it is anticipated that the public will not be allowed to use the strip for landing and takeoffs until Fall 2009.

The Recreational Aviation Foundation is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 corporation established in December 2003 with the goal of preserving and creating back country aviation opportunities.

Headquartered in Bozeman, the organization has membership in 26 states and can be contacted at (406) 587-5166. [www.recreationalaviationfoundation.org](http://www.recreationalaviationfoundation.org)

**Aeronautics Division  
Montana Department of Transportation**

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## April 2008

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